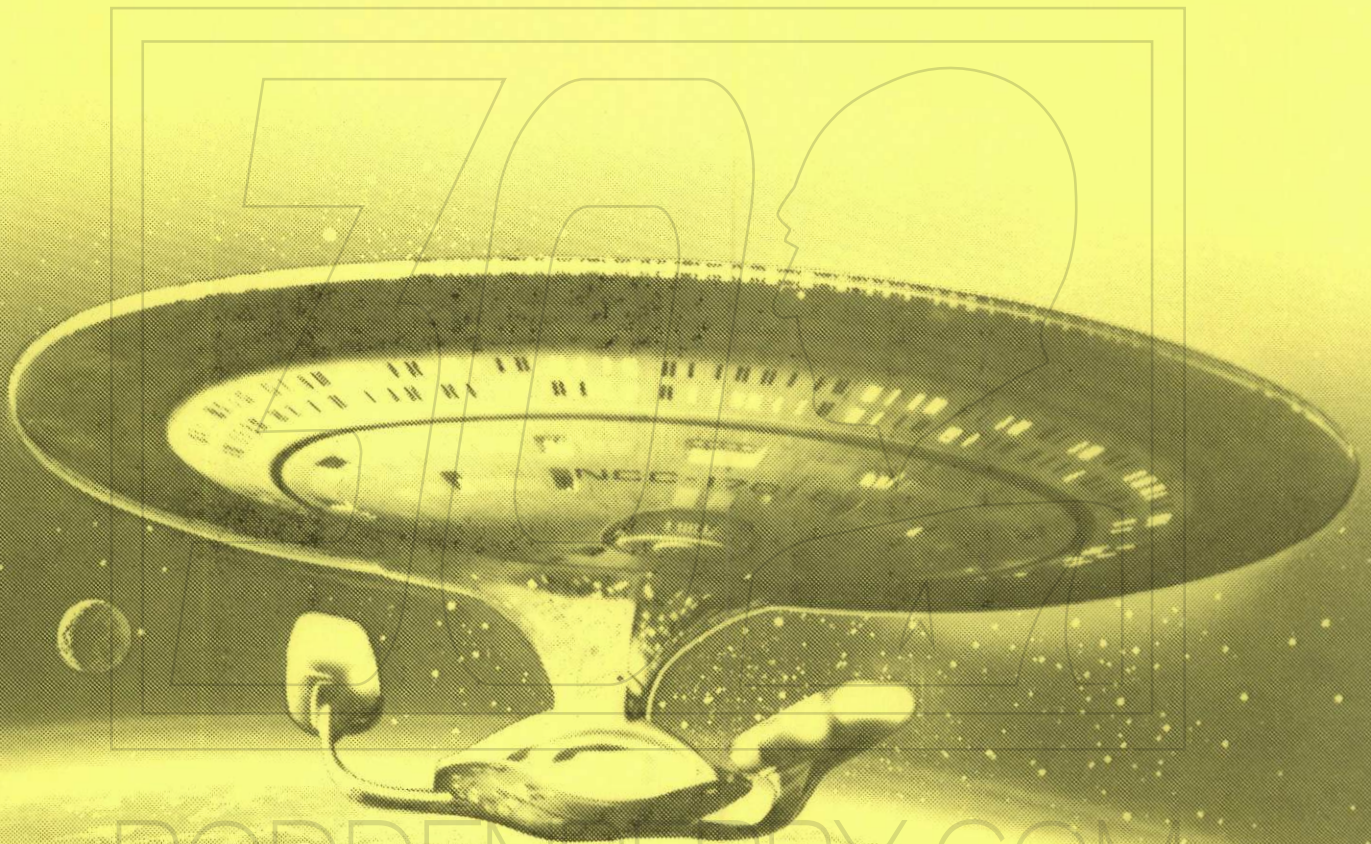


Gene R.  
Lorre

# STAR TREK

**THE NEXT GENERATION**



**"The Best  
of Both Worlds"  
Part Two**



A Paramount Communications Company

FINAL DRAFT

JULY 2, 1990



# MEMO



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PART TWO

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STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

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07/03/90 be  
07/06/90 pk  
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07/09/90 gd  
07/10/90 bf  
07/10/90 sn  
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07/13/90 we  
07/18/90 be  
\*07/27/90 pk

"The Best of Both Worlds"

Part Two

#40274-175

Written by

Michael Piller

Directed by

Cliff Bole

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FINAL DRAFT

JULY 2, 1990

STAR TREK: "Worlds" Part Two - 7/9/90 - CAST

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds" Part Two

CAST

PICARD

ADMIRAL HANSON

RIKER

LT. COMMANDER SHELBY

DATA

LOCUTUS (PICARD-BORG)

BEVERLY

TROI

GEORDI

WORF

WESLEY

Non-Speaking

GUINAN

SEVERAL BORG

O'BRIEN

GLEASON

COMPUTER VOICE

Non-Speaking

SUPERNUMERARIES

MISC. SECURITY PERSONNEL



STAR TREK: "Worlds" Part Two - REV. 7/3/90 - PRONUNCIATION \*

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds" Part Two

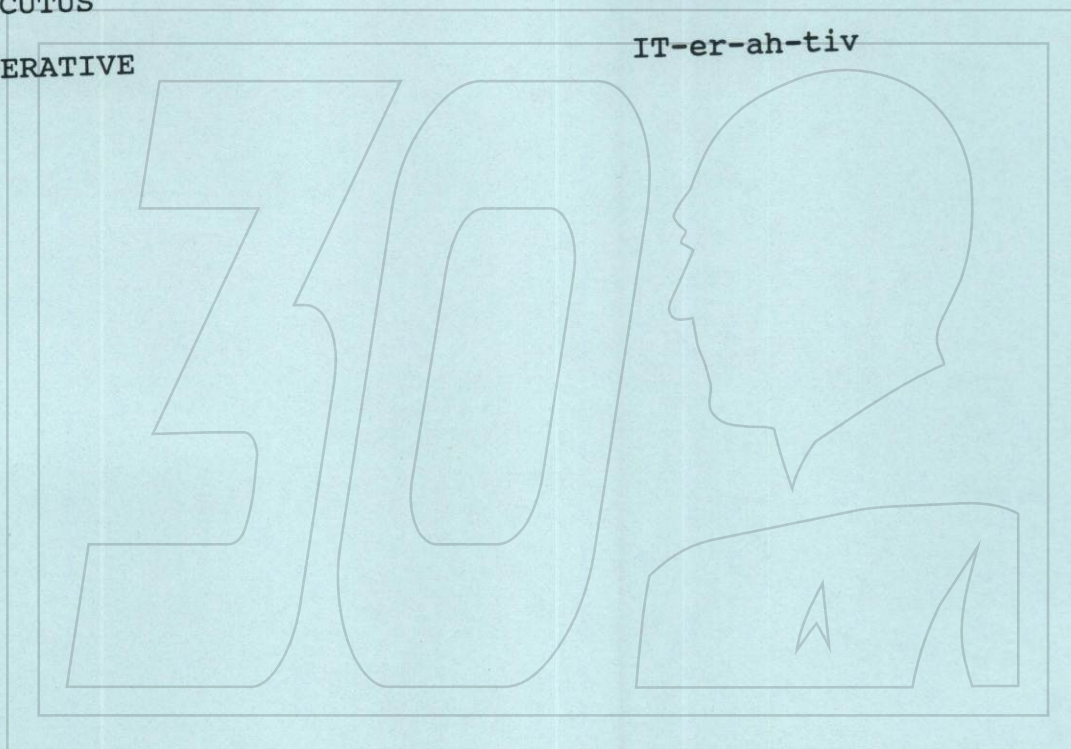
PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

LOCUTUS

low-KEW-tus

ITERATIVE

IT-er-ah-tiv



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STAR TREK: "Worlds" Part Two - 7/10/90 - SETS

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds" Part Two

SETS

INTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
MAIN BRIDGE  
BATTLE BRIDGE  
CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM  
MAIN ENGINEERING  
SICKBAY  
DATA'S LABRATORY  
CORRIDOR  
TURBOLIFT  
OBSERVATION LOUNGE  
TRANSPORTER ROOM

ENTERPRISE SHUTTLE

THE BORG SHIP  
INTERIOR CHAMBER  
OPERATING ROOM

ADMIRAL HANSON'S SHIP  
(GALAXY CLASS STARSHIP)  
READY ROOM  
BATTLE BRIDGE

EXTERIORS

USS ENTERPRISE  
BATTLE SECTION  
SAUCER SECTION

THE STARFLEET SHIPS  
USS CHEKHOV  
USS KYUSHU  
USS MELBOURNE  
ETC.

ENTERPRISE SHUTTLE

THE BORG SHIP

SATURN (FROM SPACE)

MARS (FROM SPACE)  
UNMANNED PODS

EARTH (FROM SPACE)

\*  
\*

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STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

"The Best of Both Worlds" Part Two

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL) - LOCUTUS ON SCREEN

barely reacts to Riker's order to fire. Red alert continues. We hear a low rumbling, slowly growing...

RIKER

Eyes locked on Locutus. The rumbling grows.

GEORDI

at the Engineering Station... monitoring readings...

GEORDI

Deflector power approaching maximum limits. Energy discharge in... six seconds...

As the rumble heightens to a roar...

VARIOUS REACTIONS

Beverly... Troi... Worf... Wesley... Shelby... finally back to Riker...

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

Close on the main deflector dish as it glows... pulses... and then erupts in a blinding beam that strikes --

EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

A forcefield absorbing the continuing blast.

INT. MAIN BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

The ship shakes...

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

WORF  
The Borg ship is undamaged.

SHELBY  
Impossible...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Warp reactor core  
primary coolant failure.

GEORDI  
Can't maintain it much longer,  
Commander...

Riker never takes his eyes off Locutus...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Exceeding reaction  
chamber thermal limit.

RIKER  
Cease fire.

Geordi runs through a series of commands on his  
panels...

GEORDI  
Shutting down warp engines.

The roar stops... the silence is eerie... The Bridge  
crew is stunned.

RIKER  
(unbelievable)  
They couldn't have adapted that  
quickly...

LOCUTUS  
(on the contrary)  
The knowledge and experience of  
the human Picard is part of...  
us... now. It has prepared us...  
for all possible courses of  
action. Your resistance is  
hopeless...  
(beat)  
...Number One.

(CONTINUED)



7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

And on the frightening intimacy of the moment... on  
Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER



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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

8

Alone... The Borg ship is gone.

RIKER (V.O.)  
First Officer's Log, Stardate  
43999.1. The Borg ship has  
resumed its course toward Earth.  
We are unable to pursue pending  
repairs to the Enterprise.

\*

9 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE (OPTICAL)

9

Riker, Geordi, Troi, Worf, Beverly and Shelby. Admiral  
Hanson is on the viewscreen; he is in his Ready Room on  
a Galaxy Starship.

RIKER  
...and as we anticipated, the  
blast burned out the main  
navigational deflector... we also  
have damage to shields and the  
reactor core.

GEORDI  
We should be back up in eight to  
twelve hours, Admiral.

Hanson frowns, acknowledges...

HANSON  
Well, we'll miss you at the party.

RIKER  
The Enterprise will be there, sir.  
Maybe a little late. But we'll  
be there.

HANSON  
Your engagements gave us valuable  
time. We've mobilized a fleet  
of forty starships at Wolf 359  
and that's just for starters...  
the Klingons are sending  
warships... Hell, we've even  
thought about opening  
communications with the  
Romulans...

(CONTINUED)



9 CONTINUED:

9

SHELBY

You realize, Admiral, that with the assistance of Picard, the Borg will be prepared for your defenses.

Hanson takes a long beat as though he's considering the dreadful ramifications of this fact. But that's not what he's thinking about at all. He finally speaks.

HANSON

Lieutenant... a few years ago, I watched a freshman cadet pass four upper classmen on the last hill of the forty kilometer run on Danula Two... damndest thing I ever saw... only freshman to ever win the Academy marathon. I made it my business to get to know that young fellow... got to know him very very well... I'll tell ya, I've never known anyone with more drive, determination or more courage than Jean-Luc Picard. There's no way in hell he would assist the Borg. I want that clear.

SHELBY

Of course, Admiral...

HANSON

He is a casualty of war.

BEVERLY

Then... we have abandoned all hope of recovering him.

HANSON

(reluctantly acknowledges)

In less than twenty-four hours, this armada's going to hit that Borg vessel with everything we can muster. Either they survive or we do. As for Picard...

(beat)

A great man has been lost. Your Captain. My friend.

He sighs, looks down a beat and then up.

(CONTINUED)

\*  
\*  
\*



9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

HANSON  
Commander Riker... I hereby  
promote you to the field  
commission of Captain.

Push in on Riker...

HANSON  
The Enterprise is your ship now.  
Congratulations. I wish the  
circumstances were different.

RIKER  
Good luck, Admiral.

HANSON  
To us all.

He signs off.

10 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)  
warping toward Earth.

10

11 INT. BORG SHIP

11

Moving down a row... no activity... the Borg are in  
their regenerative state, in their compartments...  
finding Locutus in a compartment, 'asleep'... a shudder  
crosses his face as though a nightmare has invaded his  
mind... suddenly his eyes open in a panic...

12 MATTE SHOT - THE BORG SHIP INTERIOR (OPTICAL)

12

\*

An agonizing human cry echoes through the chamber...

13 A BORG IN HIS COMPARTMENT

13

reacts to the commotion... methodically EXITS and moves  
to Locutus, who resists his efforts to restrain him...  
another Borg joins them... together they escort him  
out of his compartment...

14 INT. BORG OPERATING ROOM - MONTAGE SEQUENCE (OPTICAL)

14

Small and no different than any other area of the ship  
except there is a medical table...

(CONTINUED)



14 CONTINUED:

14

Locutus is lying on his back, conscious as one Borg prepares to use a long, probing implant device to add a bio-chip... another Borg prepares a huge mechanical arm to attach... and as we slowly push in to Locutus' face... and into his eye... a single tear is in one corner... and as the operation commences, his eyes close and after a beat, slowly, the color in his human face begins to drain further and further away until he is ashen white.

15

INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

15

Riker stands at the window, now wearing a Captain's rank, looks around... moves closer to Picard's desk... and studies the empty chair... and it is a symbol of the man... and he cannot bring himself to sit there. So he sits in the chair he always sits in... facing the Captain's desk. A chime. He reacts... stands...

RIKER

Come.

Troi ENTERS. Riker is glad to see her, smiles, warm.

RIKER

Hi.

TROI

You wanted to see me?

And already it's different between them... he is the Captain now and that inherently creates an emotional barrier.

RIKER  
How's the crew?

TROI  
Throwing themselves into the work to be done... the emotional impact hasn't been fully realized yet...

RIKER  
(understands)  
I guess Starfleet training kicks in and takes over...

(CONTINUED)

\*  
\*



15 CONTINUED:

15

TROI  
(acknowledges)  
We know the risks, tell ourselves  
we're prepared for the  
consequences... and yet, something  
like this cuts deeper than we can  
admit at first. He was our  
Captain. It's like losing the  
leader of a nation or the head  
of a family.

RIKER  
(a beat)  
He was more of a father to me than  
my own.

Troi nods sympathetically...

RIKER  
When I saw him like that...  
mutilated...

TROI  
You did what you had to do...  
nobody doubts your love for him...

RIKER  
Was there any part of him left,  
Deanna?

TROI  
(slow)  
Yes. I can still sense his  
humanity

RIKER  
(looks down)  
Then you must have sensed his  
pain...  
Her silence tells him she does.

RIKER  
I don't envy your abilities.  
He cannot stay with the intensity of this moment...  
Breaking the tension --

(CONTINUED)

\*



15 CONTINUED: (2)

15

RIKER

I'd better check on the progress  
of our repairs...

(beat)

There won't be any changes... as  
far as I'm concerned it's his  
ship, his crew... and everything  
we do, every battle we fight, it's  
for him.

(beat, warm)

I'm glad you're here to help me  
with this.

TROI

Thank you, Captain.

And as they both realize their intimacy will be never  
quite the same again.

RIKER

(dismissed)

Counselor...

Their eyes say more than their words. And as she  
leaves, we stay a beat on him as he begins to realize  
it's lonely at the top and he glances once more at --

16

THE DESK

and the empty chair... where he still has not been  
seated.

16

17 INT. TURBOLIFT

17

as it opens and Riker and Worf ENTER.

RIKER

...and Mister Crusher has  
suggested a chip might be designed  
that will automatically retune  
phasers to a random setting after  
each discharge...

WORF

That would be a great advantage.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

RIKER

We should also see if we can find  
some way to neutralize their  
forcefields, Worf... we've got  
to show them we can adapt too.

(to com)

Engineering.

(continuing to Worf)

We're not just fighting the Borg  
anymore... we're fighting the life  
experience they've stolen from  
Captain Picard... how the hell  
do we defeat an enemy that knows  
us better than we know  
ourselves...?

WORF

The Borg have neither honor nor  
courage... that is our greatest  
advantage.

RIKER

I hope it's enough.

(CONTINUED)

\*

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17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

The doors open. They EXIT...

\*

18 OMITTED

18

19 INT. ENGINEERING

19

The warp reactor where Geordi and Shelby are supervising repairs, checking panels, sensors...

GEORDI

Engine control processors are back up...

SHELBY

Accelerator coils are responding normally...

GEORDI

Forward shields at fifty-eight percent... aft shields --  
(reacts as he studies sensors)

Sensors must be down...

SHELBY

Checking... sensors are fine... no, aft shields have completely failed... dammit... auxiliary generators are out again...

Riker and Worf ENTER. Seeing Worf --

(CONTINUED)

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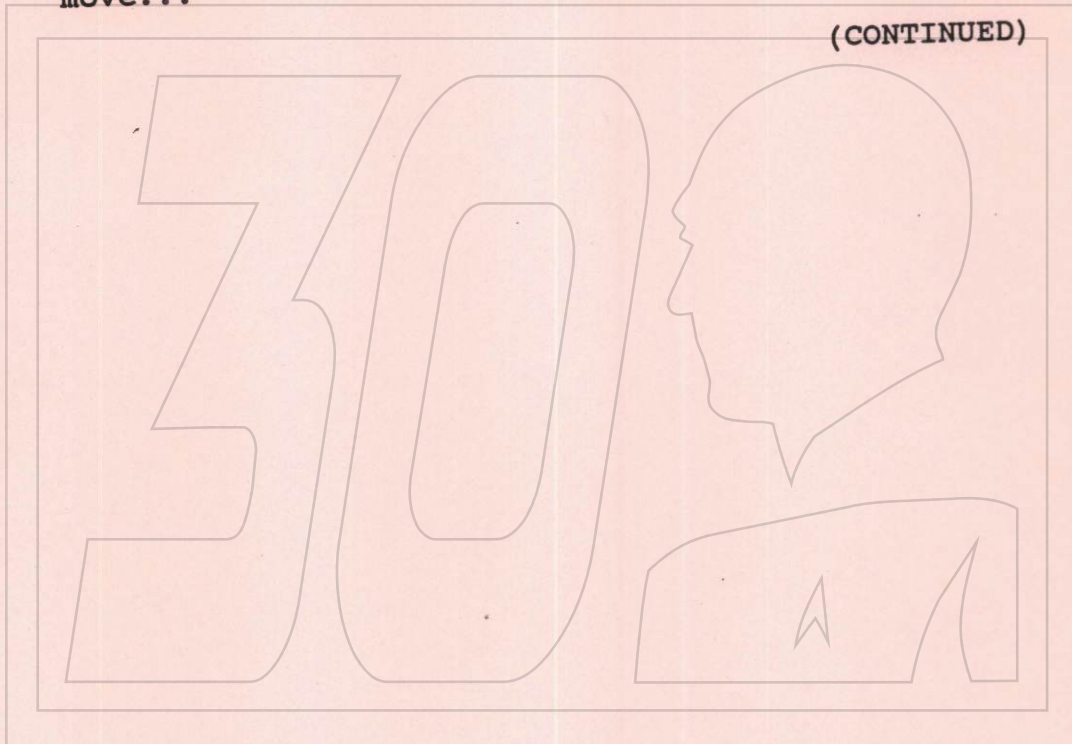
CONTINUED:

GEORDI  
Just the man I need.  
(to Riker)  
We're having problems with the  
aft shields... generators are  
going on and off line... I could  
use your help, Worf...

\*

Riker nods his approval. Geordi and Worf start to  
move...

(CONTINUED)



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19 CONTINUED:

19

RIKER

How soon do we get underway,  
Geordi?

GEORDI

Still a couple hours... Commander  
Shelby can fill you in...

Geordi and Worf EXIT... Riker and Shelby are alone...  
the first time they've been alone since the big  
Turbolift argument... and the tension of their  
relationship hangs over the scene.

SHELBY

The main navigational deflector  
is functional again... Sherbourne  
and Barclay are running through  
the final testing sequence now...

RIKER

The warp reactor core?

SHELBY

Reconstruction is proceeding  
normally... it's slow work. If  
we can nail down this shield  
generator problem, I agree with  
La Forge... we should be at  
operating capacity in two or three  
hours...

RIKER

Good.

An uncomfortable beat of silence as they study each  
other...

SHELBY

Anything else, sir?

RIKER

Yes. You did a good job on the  
Borg ship.

SHELBY

I didn't get Picard.

RIKER

You stopped them. You gave us  
our shot.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Shelby realizes that Riker is being extraordinarily generous and she appreciates it. About to apologize for her earlier attitude --

SHELBY

Sir...

RIKER

Commander, we don't have to like each other to work well together. In fact, I expect you to continue to keep me on my toes.

SHELBY

(quick)

Some might define that as the role of a first officer.

Riker reacts, frowns...

RIKER

Damn, you are ambitious, aren't you, Shelby...

SHELBY

Yes.

Riker shakes his head, almost smiles. She does have chutzpa.

SHELBY

(continuing)

Captain Riker, based on our past relationship, there's no reason I should expect to become your first officer... except you need me. I know how to get things done. And I have the expertise in the Borg...

RIKER

You also have a lot to learn, Commander.

SHELBY

(beat, taking it as a rejection)

Yessir.

(CONTINUED)



19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

RIKER

(beat)

Almost as much as I had to learn  
when I came aboard as Captain  
Picard's first officer. He  
reminded me of that fact when I  
commented on what a pain in the  
neck you are.

SHELBY

(relieved)

Yessir.

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Data to Riker. Message from  
Starfleet, Captain.

RIKER  
Go ahead, Data.

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Starfleet reports it has engaged  
the Borg at Wolf 359.

On Riker's reaction...

20  
thru  
25

OMITTED

20  
thru  
25

26

INT. ENTERPRISE MAIN BRIDGE

26

Riker ENTERING in a hurry from the Turbolift. Data,  
Wesley and supernumeraries.

DATA

Admiral Hanson on subspace,  
Captain...

RIKER

On screen.

27 ANGLE (OPTICAL)

27

Hanson's image on screen... he's on a Battle Bridge at  
Red Alert... reception is breaking up... his ship is  
clearly in battle... some shaking...

RIKER

Admiral...

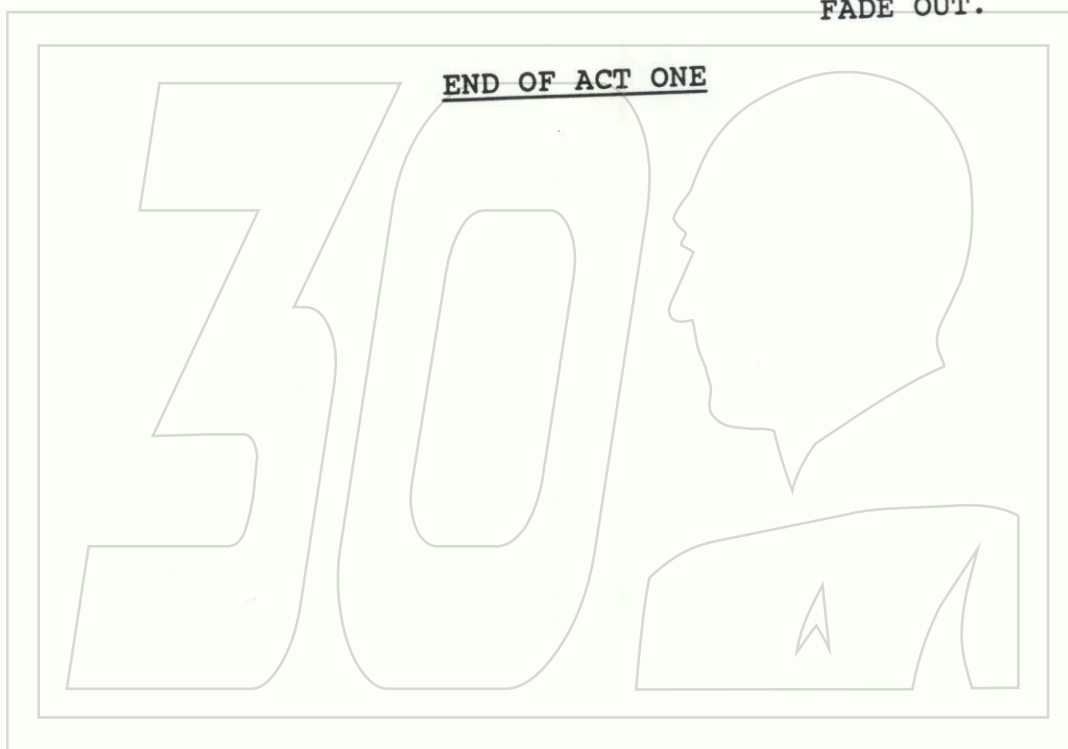
(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

HANSON  
(calm but worried)  
The fight does not go well,  
Enterprise... we're attempting  
to withdraw and regroup.  
Rendezvous with fleet...

Transmission ends suddenly... subspace hiss and snow  
fills the screen... on Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.



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ACT TWO

FADE IN:

28 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)  
warping.

28

RIKER (V.O.)  
Captain's Log, Stardate 44000.3.  
Repairs are complete. The  
Enterprise is warping to  
rendezvous with Starfleet at Wolf  
359. Subspace communications from  
the site of battle have been cut  
off possibly by Borg interference.

\*

29 INT. OBSERVATION LOUNGE

29

Riker, Data, Geordi, Beverly, Shelby, Worf, Troi.

RIKER  
Lieutenant Worf, everyone at this  
table shares my respect for your  
service to this ship. But right  
now, I need your experience at  
tactical... Mister Data, I  
realize that your very nature  
omits ambition. Nevertheless,  
I want you to know I thought  
seriously about you as first  
officer as well...

DATA  
Thank you, sir...

RIKER  
But this is not a time for change.  
I need you all where you are,  
where Captain Picard always relied  
on you.

(with some tongue-in-  
cheek)

I have been... reluctantly...  
forced to conclude that Commander  
Shelby, our expert on the Borg,  
is the ideal choice at this time  
for first officer.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

Shelby has softened a bit by now, appreciates the humor at her expense... the staff nods congratulations. On to business...

\*

RIKER

Based on our last communication, we have to assume the Borg have survived the fleet's attack... your thoughts on our next encounter...

SHELBY

What about the heavy graviton beam we were talking about...?

GEORDI

I've gone over it four times... The local field distortion just wouldn't be strong enough to incapacitate them...

DATA

Doctor Crusher and I have been working on an interesting premise...

BEVERLY

With our recent experience in nanotechnology, we might be able to introduce a destructive breed of nanite to the Borg...

SHELBY

Nanites?

DATA

Robots small enough to enter living cells.

RIKER

How much time would it take to execute this...

BEVERLY

That's the problem. Two, three weeks.

TROI

In two or three weeks, nanites may be all that's left of the Federation.

\*

(CONTINUED)



29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

There's an ominous silence as the ideas run out.

WORF

We have the new phaser adapters...

GEORDI

(grim)

Perhaps in concert with photon  
torpedoes... we can slow them  
down...

But this is a crew with little hope and ultimately all  
eyes turn to their Captain. A long beat as Riker feels  
the responsibility of command.

RIKER

I'm sure Captain Picard would have  
something meaningful and inspiring  
to say right now. And to tell  
you the truth, I wish he were here  
to say it, cause I'd like to hear  
it, too.

30

ANGLE - THE FACES  
around the table.

30

RIKER (O.C.)

(continuing)

I know how difficult this  
transition is for all of you.  
I can take over for him, but I  
can never replace Captain Picard  
and would never hope to...

31 RIKER

31

And in that moment, Riker wonders as he looks around  
the table whether he's reaching them...

\*  
\*

RIKER

(a beat)

Whatever the outcome, I know our  
efforts in the coming battle will  
justify the faith he had in all  
of us.

(beat, bailing out)

Dismissed.

\*

As they rise to leave...



32 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

32

Riker ENTERS, frustrated, not sure what the hell he's going to do, not pleased with the way he handled the meeting... once more he looks at --

33 ANGLE - THE DESK

33

with no one behind it...

34 RIKER

34

RIKER  
What would you do?

A chime.

RIKER  
Come in.

The door opens to reveal Guinan. She ENTERS.

GUINAN  
May I speak to you, Captain?

RIKER  
(reluctant)  
Well, actually Guinan... right now, I...

GUINAN  
(will not be denied)  
Picard and I used to talk... now  
and again, when one of us needed  
to... I guess I'm just used to  
having the Captain's ear...

And sacrilege as it might be, she sits behind the desk in the Captain's chair. Riker reacts.

GUINAN  
I hope I'm not imposing.

Riker studies her, let's get this over with.

RIKER  
What's on your mind?

(CONTINUED)

\*



34

CONTINUED:

34

GUINAN

I've heard a lot of people talking  
down in Ten Forward... They  
expect to be dead in the next day  
or two.

It is said casually, stating a fact... A beat as Riker  
studies her, wonders what she's getting at.

GUINAN

(continuing)

They like you, Riker. They trust  
you. But they don't believe  
anyone can save them.

RIKER

(defensive)

I'm not sure anyone can.

GUINAN

The way I see things, if a man  
is convinced he's gonna die  
tomorrow, he'll probably find some  
way to make it happen.

(beat)

The only one who can turn that  
around... is you.

Riker has had just about enough of this tutoring  
session with the bartender...

RIKER

(with an edge)

I'll do the best I can.

GUINAN

You'll have to do something you  
don't want to do.

(off his look)

Let go of Picard.

RIKER

(calmly angry)

Maybe you didn't hear --  
yesterday, I tried to kill him.

GUINAN

You tried to kill whatever that  
is on the Borg ship. Not Picard.  
Picard is still here, still in  
the room with us.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

GUINAN (Cont'd)

(beat)  
If he had just died, it would  
be easier. But he's been taken  
from us a piece at a time.

They study each other a long beat. Both feel the loss  
intensely.

GUINAN

Did he ever tell you why we were  
so close?

RIKER

No.

GUINAN

Then I'm not going to tell you  
either. But it was beyond  
friendship, beyond family... and  
I will let him go. You must,  
too.

(beat)  
There can only be one Captain.

RIKER

It's not that simple... This was  
his crew... he wrote the book on  
this ship...

GUINAN

And the Borg know everything he  
knows...

RIKER

Yes...

GUINAN

Then, it's time to throw the book  
away.

(beat)  
You must let him go, Riker. It's  
the only way to beat him... the  
only way to save him.

He reacts. She stands.

GUINAN

This chair is yours.

And she EXITS. After a beat, he slowly moves to the  
empty chair and sits down.



35 OMITTED

35

36 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

36

Data, Wesley, Shelby, Worf and supernumeraries are on the Bridge. Shelby wears Commander rank pips. \*

WESLEY  
(on com)  
Captain, we're approaching the  
Wolf system.

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
On my way.  
Riker ENTERS from the Ready Room.  
RIKER  
Slow to impulse. Take us to the  
battle coordinates, Ensign...  
yellow alert...  
WORF  
Sensors are picking up several  
vessels, Captain...  
RIKER  
The fleet?  
DATA  
(checking)  
There are no active subspace  
fields... Negligible power  
readings...

RIKER  
Lifesigns?

DATA  
Negative, sir.

WORF  
Visual contact.

RIKER  
On screen.

37 ANGLE - VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

37

and the Bridge crew reacts with horror as they see the  
wreckage of the Starfleet armada... it is like Pearl  
Harbor. Passing by one dead ship after another...

38 TWO SHOT - RIKER AND SHELBY

38

as she recognizes and calls out the names... and slow  
push to Riker...

SHELBY  
The Chekhov... The Kyushu...  
The Melbourne...

\*

On Riker's face...

39 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

39

as it passes through the cemetery of dead ships...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

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ACT THREE

FADE IN:

40 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL) 40

at impulse, going through the devastation as before.

41 INT. MAIN BRIDGE 41

WORF

Sir, sensors are picking up unusually strong magnetic eddy currents, bearing two-zero-zero, mark two-one-one.

RIKER

Data, your analysis...

DATA

It could indicate the course of the Borg ship...

RIKER

Ensign Crusher, set a course that follows those currents...

WESLEY

Aye, Captain.

RIKER

Commander Shelby, you will prepare to initiate your plan of separating the saucer section when we find the Borg.

SHELBY

Sir, I must remind you that Captain Picard was briefed on that plan... the Borg will be prepared for it...

RIKER

I'm aware of that, Commander. In fact, I'm counting on it.

She reacts...

SHELBY

Crusher, Cartaino, Gleason -- report to the Battle Bridge...

\*

(CONTINUED)



41 CONTINUED:

41

As the regulars are replaced at their posts by  
supernumeraries... on the move...

RIKER  
Mister Data and Mister Worf, I  
have a special mission for you...

42 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

42

at Warp.

43 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

43

Locutus is escorted, almost like a pet dog on a "heel"  
command, to the area near the center chamber where  
communication takes place... he is less Picard than  
he was before... more Borg... The facial color is  
gone... a huge Borg arm has been added... as he  
positions himself --

43A ANGLE (OPTICAL)

43A

a wide viewscreen reveals a small image of a ship  
approaching... an effect magnifies the image to reveal  
it as The Enterprise.

44 LOCUTUS

44

reacts... over his face --

RIKER'S VOICE  
Locutus of Borg, this is Captain  
William T. Riker of the U.S.S.  
Enterprise.

\*

45 ANGLE - THE VIEWSCREEN - RIKER'S IMAGE (OPTICAL)

45

\*

from the Battle Bridge...

LOCUTUS  
You may speak.

INTERCUT:



46 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

46

Riker, Wesley at Conn, GLEASON at Ops, others as needed. Shelby, Data and Worf are notably absent.

RIKER

We wish to end the hostilities.

LOCUTUS

Then you must unconditionally surrender.

RIKER

We are prepared to meet to discuss your terms.

LOCUTUS

(a beat)

It is unlikely that you are prepared to discuss terms. It is more likely that this is an attempt at deception.

RIKER

Come now, Locutus, if Picard's knowledge and experience is part of you, then you know I have never lied to him... in fact, you should implicitly trust me, is that not so?

Locutus is having difficulty processing Riker's routine...

LOCUTUS

Picard implicitly trusted you.

RIKER

Then trust me now. Meet with me to discuss terms.

The Borg influence takes over in Locutus.

(CONTINUED)

\*  
\*



46 CONTINUED:

46

LOCUTUS  
Discussion is irrelevant. There  
are no terms. You will disarm  
all weapons and escort us to  
sector zero-zero-one where we will  
begin the assimilation of your  
culture and technology.

Riker turns away from the screen... signals to cut off  
transmission...

RIKER  
Mister Gleason, can you pinpoint  
the Borg's source of transmission?

GLEASON  
(acknowledging)  
I can put you within thirty meters  
of it, sir...

RIKER  
(to comm)  
Mister O'Brien, report...

INTERCUT:

47

INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM  
O'Brien with Data and Worf...

47

O'BRIEN  
The Borg have adapted their  
electromagnetic field to prevent  
main Transporter functions, sir...

RIKER  
(to comm)  
As expected. Mister Data and  
Mister Worf, you will proceed as  
we discussed...

DATA  
Aye, Captain...

Data and Worf each don an armpack.

48 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

48

Locutus at the viewscreen. Riker turns back, reopens  
communications.

(CONTINUED)



48 CONTINUED:

48

RIKER  
We would like time to prepare our  
people for assimilation.

LOCUTUS  
Preparation is irrelevant. Your  
people will be assimilated as  
easily as Picard has been.

49

INT. BATTLE BRIDGE (OPTICAL)

49

RIKER  
Does it involve a lot of  
needles... because I just hate  
needles...

LOCUTUS  
Your attempt at a delay will not  
be successful, Number One. We  
will proceed to Earth and if you  
attempt to intervene we will  
destroy you.

RIKER  
Take your best shot, Locutus,  
cause we're about to intervene.

Cuts off communication... Starfield and the Borg ship  
return to the viewscreen.

RIKER  
Reset subspace communications  
to scrambler code Riker One...

GLEASON  
Scrambler code Riker One,  
acknowledged.

RIKER  
(to com)  
Commander Shelby, report...

INTERCUT:

50 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

50

Shelby at command with supernumeraries at other posts.

(CONTINUED)



50 CONTINUED:

50

SHELBY  
Ready for separation.

RIKER  
Make it so.

51 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

51

The separation begins...

51A

INT. ENGINEERING

GEORDI  
Docking latches clear, separation  
complete...

51A

\*

52

INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

WESLEY  
Saucer velocity one hundred meters  
per second and increasing.

52

\*

RIKER  
Open fire... all weapons...

53

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

SHELBY  
Fire...

53

54 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

54

Locutus watches the two separating parts of the  
Enterprise and this is nothing unexpected... the  
viewscreen scanners promptly focus on the battle  
section because Locutus knows that's where the power  
is...

55 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

55

reaches out its tractor beam toward the battle  
section...

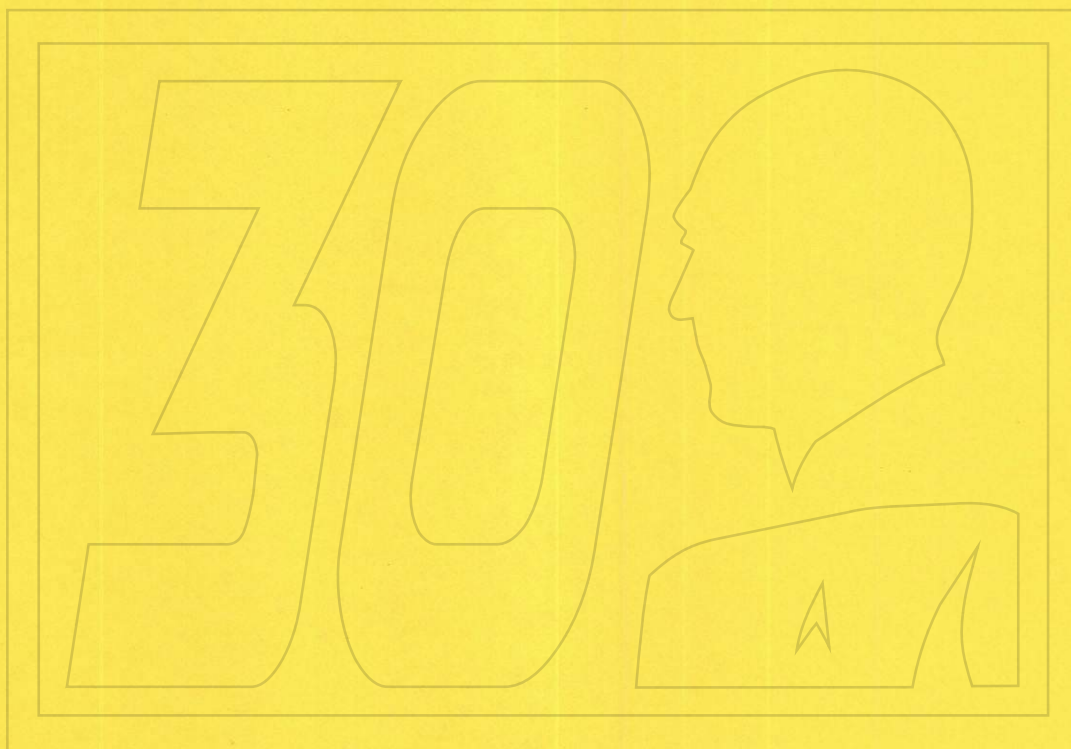


56 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

56

WESLEY  
Borg tractor beam attempting to  
lock on, Captain...

(CONTINUED)



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56 CONTINUED:

56

RIKER  
Evasive maneuvers... pattern Riker  
Alpha...

WESLEY  
Riker Alpha, confirmed...

57 EXT. SPACE - THE BATTLE SECTION (OPTICAL)

57

moving quickly by...

58 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

58

WESLEY  
They're ignoring the saucer  
section completely...

RIKER  
(murmuring toward the  
Borg ship)  
Just as you should, Captain...  
Ensign, evasive pattern, Riker  
Beta...

WESLEY  
Riker Beta, confirmed...

RIKER  
(to comm)  
Commander Shelby, proceed with  
second phase...

59 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

59

SHELBY  
Acknowledged.  
(to tactical officer)  
Fire antimatter spread...

60 EXT. SPACE - THE SAUCER SECTION (OPTICAL)

60

Fires a spread of antimatter pellets exploding in a  
spectacular display toward the Borg ship...

61 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

61

As the viewscreen pans toward the saucer section,  
Locutus and other Borg look at the antimatter  
display... and this is unexpected...



62 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE  
Pushing to Riker...

62

RIKER  
Launch shuttle...

63 INT. SHUTTLE  
Data and Worf inside...

63

DATA  
Shuttle launch sequence  
confirmed... departing Enterprise  
in three seconds...

64 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE SAUCER SECTION (OPTICAL)  
As the shuttle leaves the ship... becoming part of the  
forest of anti-matter pyrotechnics...

64

65 INT. BORG SHIP - LOCUTUS  
studies what's happening... Picard's mind working  
unwillingly... suggesting reponses...

65

66 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)  
The Borg ship terminates the tractor beam aimed at the  
battle section... initiates another beam in the other  
direction toward the anti-matter spread.

66

67 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

67

WESLEY  
The Borg tractor beam has moved  
toward the anti-matter spread.

GLEASON  
They might be picking up engine  
ionization from the shuttle...

RIKER  
(to com)  
Data, cut your engines... take  
her in unpowered...

\*



67A EXT. SPACE - THE SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

67A

to see the shuttle moving through the antimatter field toward the Borg ship... the tractor beam sweeps by, just barely missing the shuttle.

68 INT. SHUTTLE - OVER THE SHOULDER (OPTICAL)

68

The shuttle shakes.

69 OMITTED

69

70 INT. BORG SHIP - LOCUTUS  
watches.

70

71 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE  
Favoring Riker...

71

WESLEY  
They're gonna make it...

INTERCUT:

72 INT. SHUTTLE - OVER THE SHOULDER (OPTICAL)

72

As it moves up close and personal to the Borg ship...

WORF  
Shuttle has penetrated the Borg  
electromagnetic field...

Data is already out of his seat...

DATA  
(checking sensors)  
The shuttle escape transporter  
should provide adequate power  
to beam us onto the Borg ship from  
here, sir...

RIKER'S COM VOICE  
And back, Mister Data?

DATA  
Yessir, there should be enough  
energy for two transports.

(CONTINUED)



72 CONTINUED:

72

RIKER'S COM VOICE

\*

Proceed.

Worf moves out of his chair... and joins Data by the transport unit as he punches some overhead keys and they DEMATERIALIZE...

73 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

73

Locutus and the Borg react as Worf and Data MATERIALIZE several meters away... Worf and Data have phasers... blast away at the Borg near-by, several go down... Locutus turns and as Worf rushes him, his forcefield goes on, but Worf and Data together spray a wide, fan-shaped phaser blast that dissolves the forcefield and Worf tackles Locutus to the ground as Data continues to cover him with phaser shots at other Borg...

74 LOCUTUS AND WORF (OPTICAL)

74

struggle on the ground as Data comes up and sedates Locutus with a hypo... and then he hits the arm band and they DEMATERIALIZE...

75 INT. SHUTTLE (OPTICAL)

75

They MATERIALIZE...

WORF

Mission accomplished... we have him...

Touching a control panel:

DATA

Firing shuttle thrusters...

76 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

76

RIKER

Beam them out of there, Mister O'Brien...

77 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM

77

O'BRIEN

Locked in...

78 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

78

fires their cutting beam and obliterates the shuttle.

79 INT. TRANSPORTER ROOM (OPTICAL)

79

Data and Worf support the unconscious Locutus as they  
MATERIALIZE...

O'BRIEN  
Transport successful, sir...

80

INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

On a push in to Riker's reaction...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

80

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ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

81 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

81

Still in two sections... the Borg ship is taking no offensive action.

82 INT. BATTLE BRIDGE

82

As before.

GEORDI'S COM VOICE  
Captain, we've sustained damage  
to the impulse drive... the saucer  
section is disabled...

GLEASON  
Reading subspace field  
fluctuations from the Borg ship...  
looks like they're getting ready  
to increase power...

RIKER  
Stand-by, La Forge...

WESLEY  
(to himself)  
The saucer section... it's a  
sitting duck...

RIKER  
Prepare to draw their fire...

WESLEY  
(surprised)  
Captain, the Borg ship... it's  
moving away...

83 ANGLE - THE VIEW SCREEN (OPTICAL)

83

As the Borg ship warps away.

(CONTINUED)



83 CONTINUED:

83

WESLEY  
It's resuming its course to Earth,  
sir...

\*  
\*  
\*

RIKER  
Rendezvous with the saucer  
section... lay in a course of  
pursuit...

84 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

84

reconnects.

85 INT. SICKBAY

85

Picard/Borg is on an emergency medical bed... Riker  
watches as Beverly examines him...

BEVERLY  
There's extensive infiltration  
of microcircuit fibers into the  
surrounding tissues... his DNA  
is being rewritten...

\*

RIKER  
Can you revive him?

BEVERLY  
(reluctant)  
I'd like more time to study the  
structural changes in the motor  
pathways...

RIKER  
Doctor, we don't have more time.  
Once he was wired into the Borg,  
they knew everything he knew.  
I'm hoping it goes both ways.  
If we're lucky, he had access to  
everything we need to know about  
them... especially their  
vulnerabilities.

Beverly understands... uses a hypo to begin to revive  
him... he stirs...

(CONTINUED)



85 CONTINUED:

85

BEVERLY

Jean Luc... it's Beverly... can  
you hear me...

His eye opens...

LOCUTUS

Beverly... Crusher...

BEVERLY

Yes... don't try to move...

LOCUTUS

I am... on board the Enterprise.

RIKER

That's right.

LOCUTUS

A futile maneuver.

They react. He sits up.

RIKER

Locutus...

LOCUTUS

Incorrect strategy, Number One...  
to risk your ship and crew... to  
retrieve only one man... Picard  
would never have approved...

BEVERLY

(to comm)

Security...

LOCUTUS

You underestimate... us... to  
believe this... abduction would  
be of any concern...

Worf and two security men ENTER...

LOCUTUS

There is no need for  
apprehension... I intend no harm.

\*

There is a moment where the human Picard peeks  
through... seems to resist but he is helpless...  
Almost as a plea to his own alter ego --

\*

(CONTINUED)



85 CONTINUED: (2)

85

\*

LOCUTUS/PICARD

\*

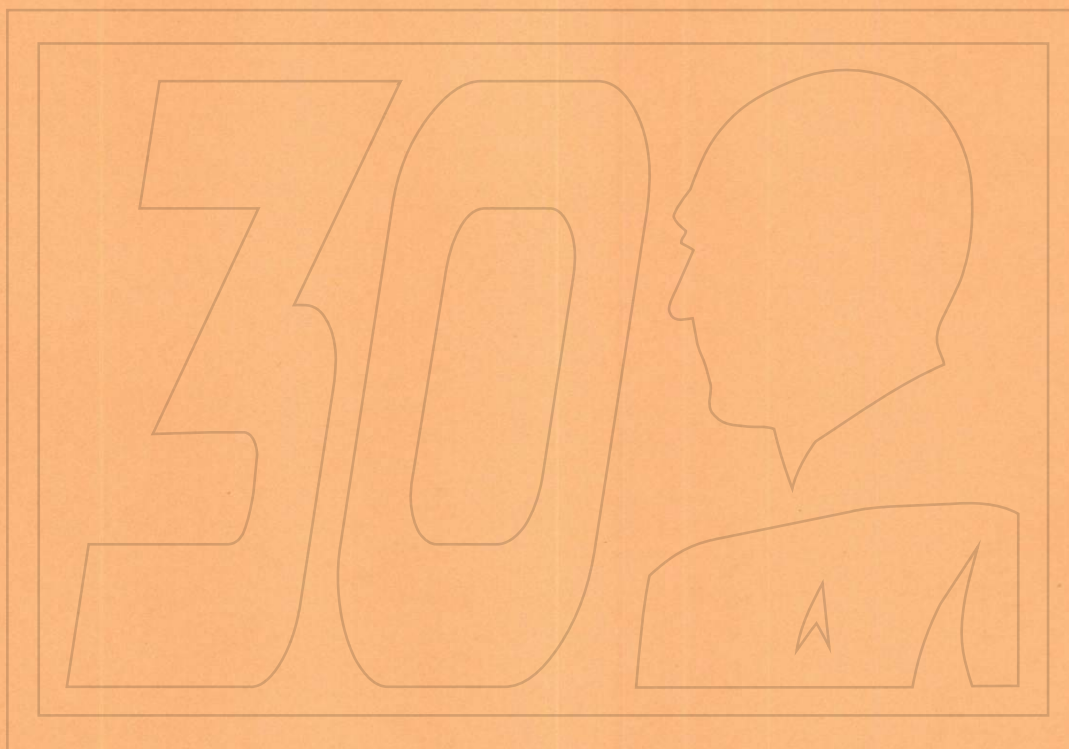
No harm.

\*

Locutus continues.

\*

(CONTINUED)



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85 CONTINUED: (2)

85

LOCUTUS

I will continue... aboard your ship... to speak for the Borg ... as they continue... without further diversion... to sector zero zero one... where they will force your unconditional surrender.

On reactions...

86

INT. MAIN BRIDGE - SCIENCE STATION

86

Riker and Beverly looking over Data's shoulder as he works at monitors... an Okudagram showing some signal measurements... Shelby at command... Wesley at Conn.

DATA

Using multimodal reflection sorting, I have been able to detect a complex series of subspace signals between Locutus and the Borg ship...

BEVERLY

That's how they're controlling him?

DATA

It is not just a matter of control, Doctor. The signals are interactive across a subspace domain similar to that of a Transporter beam. I would hypothesize that these frequencies form the basis of the Borg's collective consciousness.

RIKER

Can't we block them?

DATA

Possibly. But, as you will recall, on several occasions, we have witnessed the Borg removing key circuits from injured comrades... no doubt separating them from the group consciousness.

RIKER

The injured Borg immediately self-destructed.

(CONTINUED)

\*  
\*  
\*



86 CONTINUED:

86

DATA  
That is correct, sir.

BEVERLY  
Cutting the link to Locutus might  
be fatal to Captain Picard.

Riker frowns... thinks...

RIKER  
We have to find a way to reach  
him... we must know what he  
knows...

BEVERLY  
Without these interactive signals,  
it would only be a matter of  
microsurgery... I could do it...  
but as long as those Borg implants  
are functioning, there's no way  
I can separate the man from the  
machine.

DATA  
(beat, an idea)  
Then perhaps... there is a way  
I can access the 'machine',  
Doctor.

Riker reacts and...

87 INT. SICKBAY

87

Worf and the two security men watch as Picard examines  
Sickbay... as though he is scanning the technology...  
satisfied, he comes to Worf and begins to scan him...

LOCUTUS  
Worf.

Worf silently studies him, mixed feelings.

LOCUTUS  
Klingon species. A warrior race.  
(beat)  
You too will be assimilated.

WORF  
The Klingon Empire will never  
yield.

(CONTINUED)



87 CONTINUED:

87

LOCUTUS  
Why do you resist? We only wish  
to raise... quality of life...  
for all species...

WORF  
I like my species the way it is.

LOCUTUS  
A narrow vision. You will...  
become one with the Borg. You  
will... all... become one with  
the Borg.

Riker, Data and Beverly ENTER...

LOCUTUS  
The Android... Data... primitive  
artificial organism... you will  
be obsolete in the new order...

As he scans Data, Beverly comes around and hypos him  
in the neck, he loses consciousness... Riker and Worf  
grab him as he falls...

RIKER  
(to Security men)  
Take him to Data's lab...

SHELBY'S COM VOICE  
Shelby to Riker...

RIKER  
Go ahead...

SHELBY'S COM VOICE  
Captain, the Borg have entered  
sector zero-zero-one...

On Riker's reaction...

88 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

88

As it moves by us at impulse... we follow to reveal  
the familiar 'Monument Valley', if you will, of our own  
solar system... as the Borg ship passes by Saturn...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

89 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)  
still at warp.

89

90 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

90

Shelby at command, Wes at conn, Riker and Worf ENTER from the Turbolift. Supernumerary at Ops. \*

SHELBY  
The Borg have dropped out of warp, sir... Jupiter Outpost Nine-Two reported visual contact at twelve hundred hours, thirteen minutes...

RIKER  
Planetary defenses?

SHELBY  
Responding. No reports on effectiveness... but I can't believe that against the Borg...

RIKER  
(interrupting)  
Mister Crusher, at their current speed, when will they reach Earth?

WESLEY  
Twenty-seven minutes...

RIKER  
The soonest we can intercept?

WESLEY  
(beat, grim)  
Forty-two minutes, sir.

RIKER  
(to com)  
Riker to Data... your status?

INTERCUT:



91 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

91

This is the set up we had in "The Offspring"... the raised biobed, the impressive technical equipment... Troi, Beverly, O'Brien and the one security man observe... Picard is off-camera... Data is working at panels... checking monitors... he is seen in profile...

DATA

The initial cybernetic connection into Captain Picard's neural net pathways has been established... Mister O'Brien is ready to process the Borg signal through the transport pattern buffer.

RIKER

Make it so. And with dispatch, Mister Data...

As Data turns, he reveals an open panel on his head...

DATA

Proceeding immediately, sir. Data out.

Over the above, Data has hit a series of panels and now...

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92 ANGLE - THE BIOBED

92

begins to lower... revealing Locutus, still unconscious, stripped of clothes, his hideous mutilation clearly exposed... transfers are patched to the Borg side of him...

Data moves into position beside him and begins to attach himself to the biobed transfer device...

\*

DATA

The neural link will be established in three stages... Doctor, I suggest you closely observe Captain Picard's lifesigns while Chief O'Brien monitors my positronic matrix activity at each stage... Counselor, hopefully you will be able to determine if I am reaching Captain Picard.

O'BRIEN

At what point should I shut it down if there's a problem?

DATA

I do not know. I have never done this before.

(touching a series of panels)

Initiating first neural link...

93 BEVERLY

93

at monitors with human lifesigns displayed...

BEVERLY

The Captain's vital signs are stable...

94 O'BRIEN

94

looking at an Okudagram...

O'BRIEN

Positronic activity unchanged...



95 RESUME - DATA

95

DATA  
First neural connection is  
confirmed... I cannot report any  
significant access to the Borg  
consciousness...

He glances at Troi who shakes her head, no...

96 EXT. SPACE - THE BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

96

moving by Mars... unmanned pods attack it... the Borg  
ship destroys them easily... moves on... and now we  
reveal their final destination... the familiar shape  
of Earth straight ahead...

97 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

97

WORF  
It is confirmed... the Borg have  
broken through the Mars defense  
perimeter...

WESLEY  
Enterprise approaching the Terran  
system, sir...

RIKER  
Slow to impulse... time to  
intercept...

WESLEY  
Twenty-three minutes, fourteen  
seconds, sir.

98 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)  
at impulse power moving by Saturn...

98

99 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

99

DATA  
Second neural connection is  
confirmed... I still cannot report  
any significant access...  
proceeding with the final link...

He pushes a series of panels... and this time the  
result is dramatic... there is a visible jolt to  
Picard...

100 BEVERLY

100

reacts... checking her monitor...

BEVERLY  
Significant increase in premotor  
area and hypothalamus activity...  
his heartrate is accelerating  
rapidly...

101 O'BRIEN

101

\*

watching his sensors...

O'BRIEN  
Sir, your submicron matrix  
activity is increasing  
exponentially.

Data is absorbing information at an incredible rate...  
like an internal blastoff...

DATA  
Neural connections are complete.  
I... have... access to the Borg  
subspace signals... Processing...  
processing...

TROI  
Data...

DATA  
Stand by... processing...

O'Brien looks at Beverly with great concern...

\*  
\*  
\*

\*

DATA  
Fascinating. The Borg group  
consciousness... is divided into  
subcommands... necessary to carry  
out all functions...  
communications, defense,  
navigation... they are all  
controlled... by a root command...  
implanted in each --

Suddenly...

102 THE BORG ARM

102

on Picard rises and attempts to disengage the  
connections on the biobed...



103 THE SECURITY MAN

103

\*

charges forward... and the arm pushes them easily off the biobed... it moves back toward the connections, but

\*

104 DATA

104

grabs the Borg hand and holds it back from the controls using his extraordinary strength...

105

THE TWO ARMS

105

locked in a symbolic arm wrestle for control of Picard... and finally after straining at both ends, Data wins by breaking the arm off at the wrist joint...

105A

THE BROKEN BORG 'HAND'

105A

continues to move in Data's hand...

106

RESUME SCENE

106

BEVERLY  
Data, I'm picking up increased neural activity in Captain Picard... localized in the prefrontal and parietal lobes...

O'BRIEN  
The Borg might be trying to terminate their link with him...

\*

DATA  
Negative... subspace signal configuration is unchanged. The cause of increased neural activity is unclear...

TROI  
No, it's not... it's him...

Slowly...

107 PICARD'S HUMAN ARM

107

is reaching out, his hand struggling to find -- finally grasping -- Data's wrist and holds it tightly... clinging to life... a first contact with the human...

108 REACTIONS

108

from Data... Beverly... O'Brien...

\*

109 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

109

TROI'S COM VOICE  
Troi to Bridge. Data has made first contact with Captain Picard...

RIKER  
Can you communicate with him, Data?

DATA'S COM VOICE  
I have been unable to create a neural path around the Borg implants, sir... it is Captain Picard himself who has somehow managed to initiate contact...

WORF  
Sir, the Borg have halted their approach to Earth...

SHELBY  
I think we got their attention...

RIKER  
Time to intercept...?

WESLEY  
Two minutes, four seconds...

RIKER  
They're worried... they're worried that we've got access to Picard... we've got two minutes to figure out what we can do with it...

INTERCUT:



110 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

110

DATA  
Sir, it is clear the Borg are  
unable or unwilling to terminate  
their subspace links...

BEVERLY  
That may be their achilles heel,  
Captain... their  
interdependency...

RIKER  
What do you mean, Doctor?

BEVERLY  
He's part of their collective  
consciousness... Cutting him off  
is like asking us to disconnect  
an arm or a foot... we can't do  
it.

SHELBY  
(extrapolating)  
They operate as a single mind...

RIKER  
If one jumps off the cliff... they  
all jump off the cliff...  
(to com)  
Data, is it possible to plant a  
command in the Borg collective  
consciousness...

DATA  
It is conceivable, sir... it would  
require altering the pathways from  
the root command, to affect all  
iterative branchpoints in...

RIKER  
(interrupting)  
Make every effort, Mister Data...

DATA  
What command shall I try to plant,  
sir...?

RIKER  
Something straightforward... like  
'disarm your weapons systems'...

(CONTINUED)



110 CONTINUED:

110

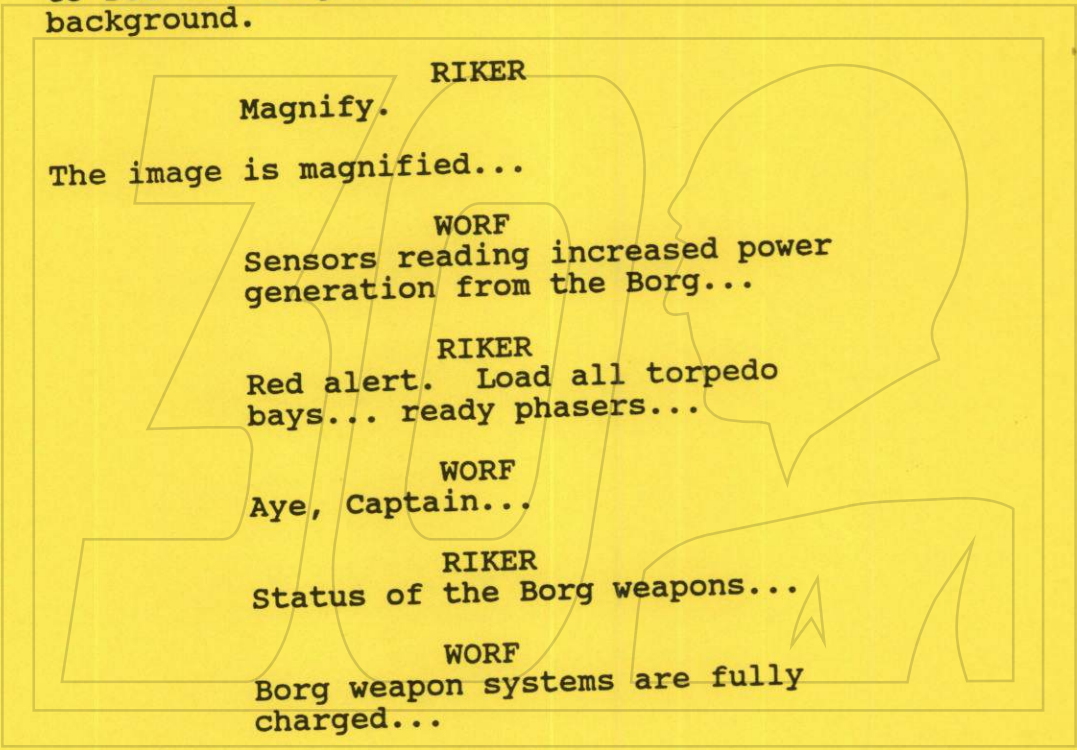
WORF  
Visual contact with the Borg...

SHELBY  
On screen.

111 ANGLE - THE VIEWSCREEN (OPTICAL)

111

to see the Borg ship long range... Earth in the  
background.



RIKER  
Magnify.  
The image is magnified...  
WORF  
Sensors reading increased power  
generation from the Borg...  
RIKER  
Red alert. Load all torpedo  
bays... ready phasers...  
WORF  
Aye, Captain...  
RIKER  
Status of the Borg weapons...  
WORF  
Borg weapon systems are fully  
charged...

\*  
\*

RIKER  
Data...?

INTERCUT:

112 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

112

DATA  
Attempting to reroute subcommand  
paths, Captain... defense systems  
are protected by access  
barriers...

(CONTINUED)



112 CONTINUED:

112

Panning down to find Picard's hand still holding on to Data's wrist...

113 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

113

and the Borg squaring off one last time with Earth as the backdrop... the Borg ship sends out their tractor beam...

114 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

114

The ship shakes...

WORF  
Borg attempting to lock on tractor beam...

RIKER  
Rotate shield frequencies...  
(to com)  
Data, report...

INTERCUT:

115 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

115

Shaking continuing...

DATA  
I am unable to penetrate defense systems command structure, Captain...

SHELBY  
Try the power systems, Data... see if you can get them to power down...

DATA  
Acknowledged... attempting new power subcommand path...

116 ANGLE - PICARD

116

shaking with the ship... stirring...



INT. ENGINEERING - GEORDI  
at a console...

GEORDI  
Shields have failed...

\*

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

RIKER  
Fire all weapons.

EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

once again in the grips of the Borg tractor beam...  
firing at will... but it is a hopeless cause...

INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

DATA  
I cannot penetrate the Borg power  
subcommand structure... all  
critical subcommands are  
protected, Captain...

INTERCUT:

INT. MAIN BRIDGE

Close on Riker as the truth sets in...

SHELBY  
Then it's over.

RIKER  
Mister Crusher, ready a collision  
course with the Borg ship...

Wesley reacts, turns and looks for confirmation...  
Repeating --

RIKER  
(quietly)  
You heard me. A collision  
course.

WESLEY  
Yessir.

RIKER  
Mister La Forge, prepare to go  
to warp power...



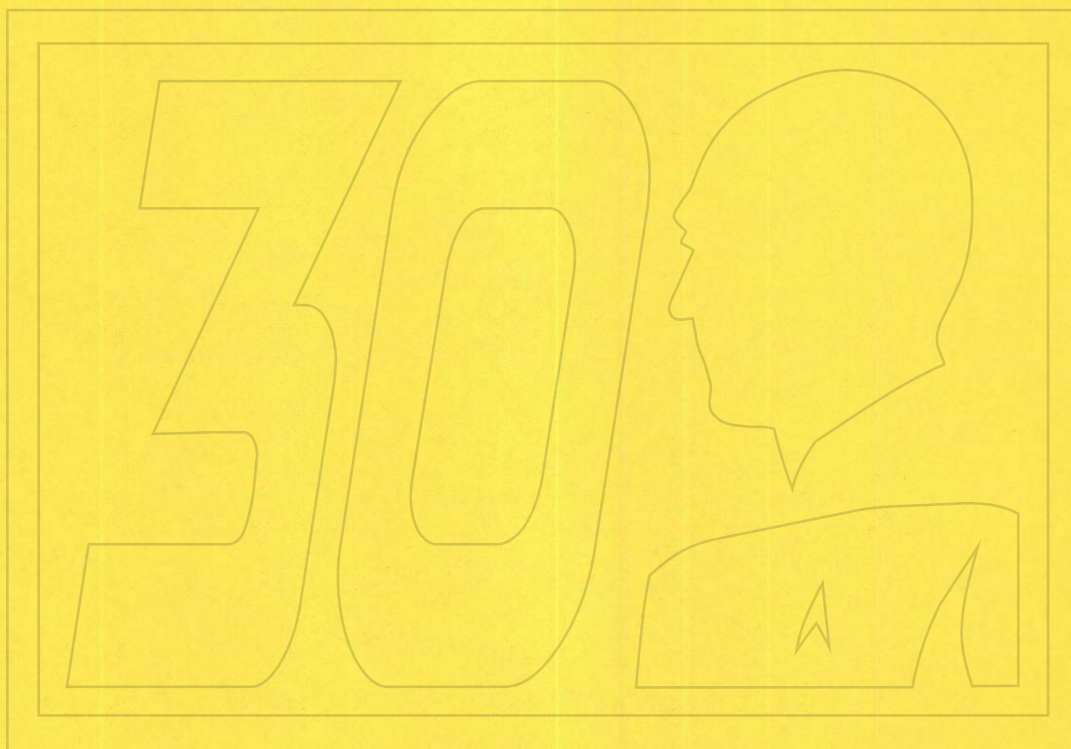
122 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

122

Picard groans, whispers...

PICARD  
Sleep.

(CONTINUED)



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122 CONTINUED:

122

And it is only by sheer force of will, the power of the man, that Picard is able to reach through the control of the Borg consciousness... and whisper this word...

BEVERLY  
Data, he's regaining  
consciousness...

PICARD  
Sleep.

TROI  
(reacts)  
It is Captain Picard speaking,  
not Locutus.

PICARD  
Sleep. Data.

And then under extreme pressure, his will is suppressed  
and he loses consciousness...

BEVERLY  
He's exhausted.

DATA  
Yes, Doctor... but if I may make  
a supposition, I believe his  
message was not intended to  
express fatigue but to suggest  
a course of action.

123 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

123

WORF  
Borg cutting beam activated...

And Captain Riker prepares to give the last fateful  
order of his short but colorful career...

RIKER  
Mister Crusher, en...

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Data to Bridge... stand by...

RIKER  
Stand by all stations...

(CONTINUED)



123 CONTINUED:

123

DATA'S COM VOICE  
I am attempting to penetrate the  
Borg regenerative subcommand  
path... it is a low priority  
system and may be accessible...

124 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

124

The Borg cutting beam reaches out to the Enterprise...

125 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

125

Crack of impact... a dreadful shake...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Outer hull breach.

WORF  
Sir... shall I execute evacuation  
sequence...

RIKER  
Negative, Mister Worf... Mister  
Data, your final report...

DATA'S COM VOICE  
Stand by...

RIKER  
I can't, Mister Data...

COMPUTER VOICE  
Warning. Inner hull failure  
imminent on decks twenty-three,  
twenty-four, and twenty-five...  
Decompression danger...

\*  
\*

126 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

126

Suddenly, the attack simply ends.

127 INT. MAIN BRIDGE

127

Reactions.

(CONTINUED)

127 CONTINUED:

127

RIKER  
Data? What the hell happened?

INTERCUT:

128 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

128

DATA  
I successfully planted a command  
in the Borg collective  
consciousness, sir. It  
misdirected them to believe it  
was time to regenerate. In  
effect, I put them all to sleep.

129 INT. MAIN BRIDGE  
Reactions.

129

RIKER  
To... sleep.

DATA  
Yessir.

RIKER  
Status of Borg power drive...?

WORF  
Minimal power...

RIKER  
Electromagnetic field?

WORF  
Nonexistent.

RIKER  
(reacts)  
Commander Shelby, take an away  
team and confirm that the Borg...  
are... asleep.

SHELBY  
Delighted, sir.

As she EXITS...

\*

\*

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130 INT. BORG SHIP (OPTICAL)

130

Shelby, Worf and Gleason MATERIALIZE... They examine the Borg... who are all in their compartments...

\*

SHELBY  
(keys insignia)  
Shelby to Enterprise. It's true.  
They're all in their regeneration  
mode.

INTERCUT:

131 INT. ENTERPRISE CORRIDOR

131

Riker on the move...

RIKER  
(keying insignia)  
Any indication to how long we can  
keep them like this...

132 INT. BORG SHIP

132

SHELBY  
Checking...

WORF  
(to Shelby)  
Commander, tricorder readings are  
fluctuating rapidly...

Shelby comes over... reacts...

\*

\*

SHELBY  
Enterprise... there are  
indications here that their entire  
power net's about to feed back  
on itself. I'd say we're looking  
at a self-destruct sequence  
activated by the Borg's  
malfunction... do you want us to  
attempt to disarm it...

133 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

133

Riker has just entered... Beverly has heard. Data is  
still tied up with Picard...

(CONTINUED)



133 CONTINUED:

133

BEVERLY

There's no way to know what the  
destruction of the Borg ship will  
do to him...

DATA

We should also consider the  
advantages of further examination  
of the Borg and their vessel, sir.

RIKER

(beat)

I don't think so. Mister Data,  
separate yourself from Captain  
Picard.

Data follows the order as --

RIKER

(keys insignia)

Away Team, get yourselves home.  
Mister Crusher, upon their return  
move us to a safe position.

And as Beverly watches with a personal concern, Data  
gently removes Picard's hand from his wrist...

\*

134 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

134

The Enterprise moves away and... the Borg ship  
explodes... in several decentralized small bursts.

INTERCUTTING:

135 INT. DATA'S LABORATORY

135

Picard shudders...

135A THE BORG SHIP

135A

blows apart.

135B PICARD

135B

lies still... After a long beat, his eyes open... he  
smiles weakly...

(CONTINUED)



135B CONTINUED:

135B

BEVERLY

Life signs are stable... the DNA  
around the microcircuit fiber  
implants is returning to normal...

TROI

How do you feel?

With a voice hoarse from fatigue...

PICARD

Almost human.  
(smiles slightly)  
With a bit of a headache...

BEVERLY

We'll get you to Sickbay...  
(to Riker)

We won't have any trouble getting  
these implants out now.

RIKER

(to Picard)  
How much do you remember?

PICARD

Everything.  
(beat)  
Including some brilliantly  
unorthodox strategy by a former  
first officer of mine.

There's a special look between them and...

136 EXT. SPACE - THE ENTERPRISE (OPTICAL)

136

Orbiting Earth.

137 INT. CAPTAIN'S READY ROOM

137

Picard has had his surgery... his face is half-  
bandaged... he is back in uniform. With him is Riker,  
still wearing his Captain's pips.

(CONTINUED)



137 CONTINUED:

137

RIKER

...and Earth Station McKinley has  
advised they're ready to begin  
refitting the Enterprise.

PICARD

Have they estimated the time for  
repairs...?

RIKER

Five to six weeks...

A chime.

PICARD & RIKER

Come.

They glance at each other as Shelby ENTERS... slightly  
confused... moves to Riker...

SHELBY

Request permission to disembark,  
sir...

Riker defers to Picard, thereby clearly relinquishing  
command.

PICARD

Permission granted. They picked  
a fine officer for the task force,  
Commander.

SHELBY

We'll have the fleet back up in  
less than a year...

(to Riker)

I...imagine you'll get your choice  
of any Starfleet command, sir...

Riker grins, exuding confidence...

RIKER

Everyone's so concerned about my  
next job. With all due respect,  
Commander... sir...

(with a nod in

Picard's direction)

...my career plans are my own  
business, no one else's.

(beat)

But it's nice to know I'll have  
a few options.

(CONTINUED)



137 CONTINUED: (2)

137

\*

SHELBY

I hope I'll have the fortune of  
serving with you again.

(turning to Picard)

Captain...

\*

\*

\*

Picard nods, dismissing her. And she EXITS.

RIKER

Course to Station McKinley is laid  
in and ready, sir...

PICARD

Make it so, Number One.

Riker grins and EXITS and we stay a beat on Picard as  
he turns in his chair and looks out his window... and  
as he drinks his tea, there is a definite incomplete  
thought here, not an entirely happy ending... a man  
recovering but not recovered.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE

THE END

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